

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

EB-08 /106 W

-----140632Z 030471 /17

R 131130Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3637

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, SU, ET, US, UR, SO

SUBJECT: SUDAN'S STAND ON ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE

REF: STATE 028002 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. SUDANESE DOUBT NIMEIRI'S STAND ON ERITREA  
WILL PROMPT SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE AFRICAN REACTION.  
ERITREAN ISSUE MUST BE SOLVED SOMEHOW, AS  
CONSTANT FLOW REFUGEES BURDENS LOCAL ECONOMY.  
SUDANESE THINK RUSSIANS MAY BELIEVE THEY CAN BUILD  
INFLUENCE IN ETHIOPIA WITHOUT LOSING IT IN SOMALIA  
BY EMPHASIZING MARXIST IDEOLOGICAL TENETS IN COMMON  
ALL THREE COUNTRIES. THRUST WOULD BE NOT TO SHIFT  
USSR POSITION IN HORN BUT TO BROADEN IT. END  
SUMMARY.

1. BRIEFED FONOFFICE USEC OSMAN ON REFTEL PRESS

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GUIDANCE FEB 12, NOTING THAT QUESTION APPARENTLY  
HAD NOT BEEN RAISED BY JOURNALISTS. OSMAN SAID HE WOULD  
SEE THAT PRESIDENT NIMEIRI WAS BRIEFED ON OUR  
POSITION. I NOTED THAT OMISSION IN GUIDANCE OF  
REFERENCE TO OUR SUPPORT FOR NIMEIRI'S EARLIER  
MEDIATION EFFORT WAS IN LINE WITH PAST DECISION,  
CONCURRED IN BY SUDANESE, THAT PUBLIC USG SUPPORT

WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN HELPFUL.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN SUDANESE/ETHIOPIAN SITUATION, OSMAN SAID EPMG HAD IN WAKE THE LATE TFERI BENTE'S SPEECH STEPPED UP ITS PRESS ATTACKS ON NIMEIRI AND GOS. THESE APPEARED HAVE SUPPORT OF EASTERN BLOC, JUDGING BY PARADE OF COMMUNIST AMBASSADORS RECEIVED BY MENGISTU. GOS FELT REFERENCE IN ETHIOPIAN PROPAGANDA TO "REACTIONARIES AND IMPERIALISTS" WAS MEANT INCLUDE GOS. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO CRITICISM FROM OTHER AFRICANS RE NIMEIRI'S NEW STAND DESPITE PROVISIONS OAU CHARTER AND GENERAL AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. HE THEORIZED THAT AFRICANS RECOGNIZE GOS HAS SOUGHT FOR SEVEN YEARS ENCOURAGE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ERITREAN SETTLEMENT BUT THAT THERE NOW CONSIDERABLE BITTERNESS BETWEEN KHARTOUM AND ADDIS WHICH HAS CAUSED GOS TO REACT. AFRICANS WOULD THUS NOT SEE NIMEIRI'S ACTION AS DEROGATING FROM PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, THOUGH NO DOUBT HOPING SUDAN WOULD NOT PURSUE ISSUE. TROUBLE WITH THIS WAS THAT ERITREAN PROBLEM IS SERIOUS AND SHOULD BE RESOLVED. NIMEIRI FELT EPMG NO LONGER SERIOUS IN SEEKING TO RESOLVE IT AND HAD ACCORDINGLY DRAWN ISSUE SHARPLY. IT NOT ONLY AFFECTS EPMG AND ERITREANS BUT ALSO GOS, SINCE REFUGEES CONTINUE ARRIVE IN SUDAN, REPRESENTING ADDITIONAL BURDEN THIS COUNTRY'S ECONOMY.

3. OSMAN OPINED EPMG LIKELY RAISE TERRITORIAL  
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INTEGRITY ISSUE AT MARCH 21 OAU MINISTERIAL IN LOME. WHILE PROBLEM HAD RADICAL AND RELIGIOUS OVERTONES, IT IS BASICALLY A POLITICAL ISSUE. SAUDIS ARE CONCERNED BECAUSE OF INDICATIONS SOVIETS ARE INCREASING INFLUENCE IN RED SEA AREA. GOS WAS PREPARING POSITION IN LIGHT THESE FACTORS BUT WOULD NOT RAISE ISSUE IF OTHERS DID NOT.

4. NOTING HAD HEARD GOOD DEAL SPECULATION RECENTLY ABOUT SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN HORN. I ASKED WHETHER USSR COULD REALISTICALLY INCREASE ITS INFLUENCE IN ETHIOPIA WITHOUT CORRESPONDING LOSS IN SOMALIA. OSMAN RESPONDED SOVIETS PROBABLY SAW BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA AS MOVING INTO MARXIST IDEOLOGICAL ORBIT. MOSCOW MIGHT THUS BELIEVE IT COULD HELP THE TWO COUNTRIES DEVELOP CLOSER TIES. SUCH EFFORTS MAKE FRIENDS WITH BOTH ON IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDS WOULD OBVIOUSLY ENTRENCH SOVIETS IN HORN. WHILE ADMITTEDLY SPECULATIVE, OSMAN NOTED IN SUPPORT HIS

THESIS THAT MUTUAL ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA PRESS CRITICISMS  
HAVE BEEN ABSENT FOR PAST TWO WEEKS.

5. COMMENT. FOREGOING IS CLEAREST ENUNCIATION WE  
HAVE HAD OF GOS CONCERN RE ULTIMATE SOVIET OBJECTIVE  
IN HORN. WHILE OSMAN TOOK NO EXCEPTION TO REITERATION  
OUR STANDARD POSITION IN SUPPORT AFRICAN TERRITORIAL  
INTEGRITY, THIS WILL HARDLY BE GRATIFYING TO NIMEIRI AT  
MOMENT. VIEW FLUIDITY OF CURRENT SITUATION, BELIEVE IT  
WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF DEPT COULD AVOID PUBLIC COMMENT ON  
THIS POINT AT THIS STAGE.  
BREWER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Subject:** SUDAN'S STAND ON ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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